

General the steps that NISC Staff plan to use to obtain stakeholder and subject matter experts input during the drafting and review of the 2015 Five-Year National Invasive Species Management Plan (Plan) (see diagram).

The Plan is being written by the Federal agencies that are overseen by the members of NISC and it will form the “blue-print” for the work of the agencies that are overseen by the members of NISC for the next five years. While this Plan contains some actions not in the previous plans, it is largely a revision of the previous NISC plans. The drafting and review process will follow a similar process to the one used to produce the 2008-2012 Plan. There will be opportunities for public and non-federal stakeholder to provide input through the Invasive Species Advisory Committee’s (ISAC) Federal Advisory Committee Act chartered process. The non-Federal members of ISAC were given an outline of the Plan on May 5, 2015 to allow them time to review it prior to their May 20-22, 2015 meeting. This Plan outline also was made available to the public on the NISC website on May 5, 2015. The goals of this ISAC review are to seek ISAC’s assistance in identifying gaps or technical errors and to identify key non-Federal stakeholders that should be engaged when the Plan is implemented by Federal agencies. The input received from ISAC members will be discussed in the May 2015 ISAC public meeting. The May 2015 ISAC meeting will have general public comment periods each day. As this is happening, NISC staff will continue to refine and clarify the wording and format of the Plan in preparation for a review draft being given to Federal program experts for their informal technical review. These Federal program experts’ review will be aided by comments received from ISAC. The resulting draft will then be submitted for a Federal Agency Review. This Federal Agency Review will be streamlined by previously having the draft technically reviewed by agency program experts and by ISAC and the public comments on the outline. Comments obtained through the Federal Agency Review process will be made (and if needed the draft will be recirculated) prior to submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). NISC staff will use the Department of the Interior’s processes to seek OMB’s review and clearance for public release. Any comments obtained in the OMB review process will be incorporated into the final Plan. Once cleared for public release by OMB, the final Plan will be presented at a second ISAC meeting. This “on-line” meeting will be focused on seeking ISAC’s advice concerning which actions in the Plan should be implemented in the near term, i.e., they are temporal priorities. ISAC’s and the public’s advice will also be sought to help NISC identify those actions that will have the greatest overall benefit and/or most enable efforts to prevent and control invasive species, i.e., they are strategic priorities. Certain Plan actions may be identified as both temporal and strategic priorities. However, ISAC’s recommendations that stem from this or other meetings are not limited to items in the Plan. The timing and sequence of these steps may change during the review and clearance processes.